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PRICES FALLING IN YUGOSLAV MARKETS;
 DIFFICULTIES MET IN FREE SALE OF MEAT

VEGETABLE PRICES FALLING ON NOVI SAD MARKETS -- Belgrade, Politika, 16 May 51

Novi Sad, 15 May -- The prices of early vegetables have begun falling on the Novi Sad markets, because farm work cooperatives and state farms are delivering larger quantities of new potatoes, onions, etc., to the three markets in Novi Sad. Because of this increase in quantity, the cooperative and state farms, followed by most of the private farmers, lowered the price of their potatoes from 120 dinars a kilogram to 70 dinars for large and 40 dinars for smaller potatoes.

Salad greens are now selling for from one to 5 dinars, according to size, and early onions have dropped to 20 dinars a kilogram, from the earlier price of 20 to 25 dinars a bunch. The price of eggs is now steady at 11 to 12 dinars apiece. Cucumbers with an average weight of one half kilogram are selling at 30 dinars apiece.

While the cooperatives, state farms, and most of the private farmers were selling early vegetables at the above prices, the Bastovana Municipal Enterprise for Fruits and Vegetables was selling small new potatoes at 80 dinars a kilogram, and cucumbers at 35 dinars apiece.

The Podunavlje Provincial Agricultural Farm in Celarevo, which has a market in Novi Sad, shipped 1,000 pullets to the market on 15 May, but with an asking price of 250 dinars /apiece?/, the majority of them were unsold.

LOWER VEGETABLE PRICES ON CROATIAN MARKETS -- Zagreb, Vjesnik, 13 May 51

Zagreb, 12 May -- A satisfactory supply of salad greens, spinach, early onions, and other vegetables in most cities and industrial centers, and offers of still more, have caused prices to fall rapidly on the Croatian markets.

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The price of various types of salad greens on the Zagreb markets ranges from 10 to 35 dinars a kilogram, as compared to the price of 30 to 80 dinars 10 days ago. The average price of spinach is around 12 dinars per kilogram, as compared to the former 18 to 30 dinars. The same situation exists in other markets throughout Croatia, except in some centers where unsatisfactory methods have been undertaken to obtain vegetables, such as in Karlovac, Osijek, and Sisak.

Participation of the socialist sector in procuring vegetables remains minor and is not in harmony with the obligations assumed by farm work cooperatives, state farms, enterprise farms, and general agricultural cooperatives in providing the cities with vegetables. Of 135 carloads of vegetables delivered to Zagreb markets during the first 10 days of May, private farmers delivered 77 carloads, the state trade network around 45, and the socialist sector only nine carloads.

PRICES FALLING DAILY IN BELGRADE MARKETS -- Belgrade, Borba, 16 May 51

The prices of many products on the Belgrade markets are falling every day.

On 15 May both the farmers and the state stores were selling milk at 26 dinars [2 liters]. Farmers are bringing less milk but more milk products to the markets, and on 15 May they were selling 2,000 kilograms of cheese at from 180 to 260 dinars a kilogram, while prices at the cooperative stores varied from 170 to 220 dinars. Egg prices were from 12 to 15 dinars apiece.

In the city markets peas were sold at 75 to 80 dinars a kilogram, and from 80 to 110 by the private farmers. The price of new potatoes was almost the same at both, 80 to 120 dinars a kilogram. Cherries, although plentiful, were fairly high, from 75 to 90 dinars a kilogram.

Fresh meat was available in almost all meat markets, selling at 130 dinars a kilogram for beef, 160 for lamb, and 180 for pork. Private farmers were selling 2,000 kilograms of smoked meat at 430 to 490 dinars a kilogram, and lard from 480 to 500 dinars.

MEAT SUPPLY SUFFICIENT AT FREE PRICES -- Belgrade, Borba, 12 May 51

There is now a sufficient supply of meat in the [Belgrade?] market to meet the demand under sales at free prices, but when cash coupons are distributed the supply will have to be increased by 7,000 kilograms daily.

The compulsory delivery of meat, which lasts until 1 July, will undoubtedly affect the farmers' offer of meat to the free markets substantially, since the livestock numbers are depleted considerably. This will especially complicate the supply in Belgrade, but does not justify the pessimistic attitude of the Directorate for Trade in Food Products, which has become reconciled to the idea that it is not possible to acquire enough meat and that the best solution is to raise the selling price. Such a procedure will not only lull the directorate and keep the city slaughterhouse purchasers from buying more, but will also result in unwarranted profits at the purchaser's expense.

Beef is now sold at 130 dinars a kilogram, and a price rise to 150 dinars is foreseen, with pork going from 180 to 220 a kilogram, and lamb from 160 to 180, etc.

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Although there are enough markets so that purchases can be made without waiting, the first days of selling meat at free sale have disclosed a few minor difficulties. Purchasers complain that stores frequently do not have a sufficient amount of small change on hand, and that they must wait or go out to obtain change; and that meat is sold without wrapping paper.

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